GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
LAW AND JUSTICE
LOK SABHA

STARRED QUESTION NO:4
ANSWERED ON:10.08.2007
DELIMITATION OF CONSTITUENCIES
Chinta Mohan Dr. ;Sarma Dr. Arun Kumar

Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) The present status of delimitation of the constituencies in the country, State-wise;

(b) the time by which delimitation exercise is to be completed;

(c) the reason for deferring the delimitation in Jammu & Kashmir;

(d) whether the general election to next Lok Sabha and Legislative Assemblies are to be held on the basis of the new constituencies as delimited;

(e) whether the Government proposes to safeguard the interest of areas where population control programmes were strictly implemented resulting in lower population growth rate;

(f) if so, the details thereof;

(g) whether the Government proposes to relax the norms to ensure representation of ethnic communities of the North-Eastern Regions; and (h) if so, the details thereof?

Answer

MINISTRY OF THE STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI H.R. BHARDWAJ)

(a) and (b): The Delimitation Commission has so far issued Orders in respect of 22 States/Union Territories, namely, Kerala, Tripura, Mizoram, Goa, Pondicherry, Rajasthan, West Bengal, Punjab, Maharashtra, Sikkim, National Capital Territory of Delhi, Chhattisgarh, Uttar Pradesh, Gujarat, Orissa, Uttaranchal, Himachal Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh, Haryana, Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka and Meghalaya. The term of the Delimitation Commission has been extended till 31st July, 2008 to complete its work.

(c): The Delimitation Act, 2002 excludes the State of Jammu & Kashmir from its purview.

(d): The Delimitation Commission has not so far completed its exercise in respect of all the States / Union Territories. It is, therefore, not possible for the Government to make a commitment at this juncture in this regard.

(e) and (f): As per Article 81(2)(a) of the Constitution there shall be allotted to each State a number of seats in the House of the People in such manner that the ratio between that number and the population of the State is, so far as practicable, the same for all States. In other words, the guiding principle for allocation of seats in the House of People to the States is that the ratio between the number of seats and the population of the State, so far as practicable be the same. This principle is subject to the proviso that the principle of equality may not apply to a State where the population does not exceed six million. Based on the representations received from various political leaders and the other concerned persons, the Government is considering this matter in all its aspects. At present, it is not possible to give the details.

(g) and (h): The norms for undertaking delimitation have been set down by the Parliament itself. Government has, however, received representations challenging the delimitation exercise on various grounds including inter alia that it would threaten the ethnic structure of political representation in North-Eastern States.